

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were presented for examination. In the Office Action mailed on July 14, 2004, the Examiner rejected Claims 1 - 3, 7-9, 13-15, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis et al (5796952) in view of Fieres et al. (5841870); and Claims 4, 6, 10, 12, 16, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis et al. and Fieres et al. as applied to claims 1, 17, and 13, and further in view of Menezes et al. (Handbook of Applied Cryptography). However, the Examiner stated that Claims 5, 11, and 17 would be allowable if amended to incorporate the subject matter of all underlying and base claims.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections presented by the Examiner. However, in order to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Applicants have amended Claims 5, 11, and 17 in order to incorporate the underlying and base claims and have cancelled Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-16, and 18-20. The Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of the cancelled claims in a continuation application to be filed at a later date. Since the subject matter of the only pending claims have been deemed allowable by the Examiner, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance.


Per the Examiner's requirement, Applicants submit herewith a Supplemental Combined Declaration/Power of Attorney document.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

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Respectfully submitted,

By:


Kyong H. Maek, Reg. No. 42,977
Phone No. 858-651-5797

QUALCOMM Incorporated
Attn: Patent Department
5775 Morehouse Drive
San Diego, California 92121-1714
Telephone: (858) 658-5787
Facsimile: (858) 658-2502